

they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults do. Nearly 4.5 million American children suffer from asthma, and air pollution is believed to be a serious contributing factor in asthma attacks, bronchitis, and emergency room visits.

One of the most insidious forms of air pollution is diesel exhaust, which contains over 40 potential carcinogens, as well as fine soot particles that can get lodged deep in the lung. The Clean Air Task Force recently released a report which found that fine particle pollution shortens the lives of nearly 21,000 people each year, and leads to lung cancer, heart attacks, and asthma attacks. For New Jersey's children alone, the report linked diesel pollution to over 540 emergency room visits due to asthma and nearly 1,300 cases of acute bronchitis each year.

Although school buses are far and away the safest way for children to travel to school, the diesel exhaust from school buses puts our children at unnecessary risk. A number of programs already exist to try to cut down our children's exposure to school bus exhaust, such as New Jersey's "Stop the Soot" initiative to reduce bus idling, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus campaign, which provides grants for school districts to purchase new, cleaner buses, or to retrofit old buses with pollution control equipment.

These programs are doing an excellent job reducing the amount of pollution our children are exposed to while they're waiting for the bus or just playing outside. But some recent studies have made it clear that our children have more to worry about inside a school bus than just who to sit next to. Researchers from Yale University, the University of Connecticut, the University of California, and Purdue University have found that the concentration of air pollution inside school buses can in some cases be far higher than outside the bus. And the evidence suggests most of the pollution is coming from the bus' own exhaust. One study published in March of this year suggests that in some cases the amount of exhaust inhaled by children on a school bus is greater than the amount of that bus' exhaust inhaled by all other people in a metropolitan area.

We know a lot about how to control emissions from the tailpipe. But we don't know a lot about how to control emissions inside the bus. We don't know how the pollution gets into the bus, and we don't know the best ways to stop it. That's why I'm introducing this legislation, which will direct EPA to do a comprehensive study of air quality inside school buses, and come up with the most effective strategies for keeping the pollution out. This bill also greatly increases the authorization level of EPA's Clean School Bus program, and makes sure that school districts can use grant money from that program to implement the strategies that fight in-bus pollution.

Mr. Speaker, this bill calls attention to an overlooked aspect of our fight for clean air, and it is targeted at those people who are most vulnerable to air pollution—our children. It creates no new requirements on school districts or municipalities; it simply gives them the tools necessary to make their school buses as healthy for children as possible. I ask my colleagues to join in me supporting this legislation, because dirt in a school bus should mean mud in the aisles, and not soot in the air.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 168 and H. Res. 333.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 29, and Thursday, June 30, I was attending a hearing of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in the state of Georgia regarding the proposed base closures and realignments for the southeastern states. I had the opportunity to testify on the importance of bases in Georgia, and particularly how vital Fort Benning is to my district and to our national security.

Due to my efforts in fighting for bases in the state of Georgia, I was unable to vote on some of the amendments proposed to the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development FY06 Appropriations legislation (H.R. 3058).

On the amendment of Mr. KING of Iowa, rollcall Vote No. 341, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Ms. HERSETH of South Dakota, rollcall Vote No. 342, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, rollcall Vote No. 343, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, rollcall Vote No. 344, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

On the amendment of Mr. DAVIS of Florida, rollcall Vote No. 345, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Ms. LEE of California, rollcall Vote No. 346, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. SANDERS of Vermont, rollcall Vote No. 347, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. RANGEL of New York, rollcall Vote No. 348, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On the amendment of Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, rollcall Vote No. 349, had I been present, I would have voted "yes." I strongly support Second Amendment rights, and the ensuring that the people have the right to personal protection. I strongly support allowing the people of the District of Columbia to defend themselves, and the crime prevention results it will bring. I applaud Mr. SOUDER for bringing this amendment, and its passage will be helpful to the people of the District.

On the amendment of Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, rollcall Vote No. 350, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On the amendment of Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut, rollcall Vote No. 351, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

## MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM RYUN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 27, 2005*

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 458, the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This legislation, sponsored by the gentleman from Kentucky, would establish procedures to protect our servicemembers from predatory practices sometimes employed by members of the financial services industry.

I want to specifically express support for Section 110 of the bill, which establishes a method for our military base commanders to obtain the information that they need to keep these problematic agents off their installations without neglecting their servicemembers of access to legitimate financial service providers.

Specifically, Section 110 creates a registry at the Department of Defense to list any agent that has been barred from entry onto any military installation. This registry will be made available to base commanders everywhere, empowering them to deny access to an agent known to employ predatory practices elsewhere.

I want to thank Mr. DAVIS and Chairman OXLEY for including the language I authored in Section 110. This language, coupled with the other provisions in the bill, will go a long way towards protecting our servicemembers from those who would prey on them financially. I encourage my colleagues to support this effort.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, on account of district business I was absent for votes on roll call numbers 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF EFFORT (CARE) ACT, LEGISLATION PROVIDING CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Caregiver Assistance and Relief Effort (CARE) Act. This bill addresses the needs of families that are making sacrifices to care for their loved ones by making long-term care more affordable. It would provide tax credits to those caring for ailing family members and loved ones, and encourage individuals to plan and invest in their own long-term care by offering a tax deduction for long-term care insurance. In addition, it would double the funding for the existing National Family

Caregiver Support Program, which supports a wide range of important services for older persons.

There are an estimated 44.4 million caregivers in the U.S., which is 21 percent of the adult population. My home state of New Jersey has over 830,000 caregivers, ranking it 9th in the country. To respond to the needs of our country and my state, I am introducing legislation that will help all American families and all New Jersey families afford to provide the care that their loved ones need and deserve.

As the father of college-age children and the son of a mother with Alzheimer's, I understand first-hand the challenges of putting children through college while providing long-term care for a loved one. Caregiving families face unique strains. They are burdened with additional costs and often caregivers must sacrifice their job or cut back on their hours at work. Almost 6 in 10 caregivers either work or have worked while providing care and 62 percent of caregivers report having had to make work-related adjustments ranging from going in late and leaving early to having to give up work entirely. Their compassion, dedication, and selflessness come at a price. This legislation is aimed at addressing their hard work and sacrifice.

The challenge of caring for our aging population will only increase as the baby boom generation grows older and our life expectancy increases. We need to work now to address the challenges of providing affordable long-term care, encourage future retirees to plan for their own long-term care, and strengthen our existing programs to address this growing need. Please join me in supporting this legislation and helping all families afford to care for the ones they love.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL WEEKEND OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 11, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my fellow citizens to engage in a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection (in recognition of the genocide occurring in Darfur, Sudan). Our Congress on July 22, 2004 and the Bush Administration on September 21, 2004 has condemned the acts in Darfur as genocide and Congress has appropriately provided humanitarian assistance in Darfur. Today, the House is urging our nation to observe a Weekend of Prayer and Reflection to recognize the atrocities in Darfur. This Weekend of Prayer and Reflection would spread awareness to communities and religious institutions, promote constructive discussion, mourn the lives lost in these dreadful acts, and ultimately call for an immediate end to the genocide.

The current crisis in Darfur began in February 2003 when two groups, The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), revolted against the Sudanese Government. Since then, the Sudanese government has actively imposed gov-

ernment restrictions and perpetrated violence against their civilians in order to crush this rebellion. The human rights violations which ensued in Darfur are numerous. The Janjaweed militia, backed by the Sudanese government, has committed grievous war crimes, such as rape, child abduction, the destruction of food and water sources, and denying humanitarian assistance to the Darfur region. An estimated 1.9 million people have been displaced and more than 213,000 people have been forced into neighboring Chad. Some observers project that up to 300,000 people have been killed over the past 2 years alone.

The United States has been a leading donor of humanitarian assistance in Darfur. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided an estimated \$615 million in humanitarian assistance for Darfur since February 2003. USAID has also established a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) for Darfur. This monetary assistance is extremely important, but the United States must also make a symbolic stance to condemn the human rights violations in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, every individual is entitled to the preservation of his and her human rights and human dignity regardless of one's religion, race, ethnicity, gender, or region of birth. The United States has a moral obligation to end the violence in order to curtail the human rights violations in Darfur. Congress must raise awareness and educate our society in order to promote understanding and initiate action. The people of the United States must not only take time to reflect on this tragedy and recognize the ongoing suffering, but we must also call an end to the genocidal acts. I hope all my colleagues join me in supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

#### HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOBBY MITCHELL HALL OF FAME CLASSIC

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Bobby Mitchell Hall of Fame Classic, held in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The Bobby Mitchell Hall of Fame Classic is a golf tournament that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Since 1990, Bobby Mitchell and other Hall of Famers have donated their time every year to help raise needed funds to find a cure for leukemia and blood-related cancers such as lymphoma and myeloma.

Since retiring from professional football after a successful 11-year career, Bobby Mitchell has dedicated his time to achieving his goal of defeating leukemia. Mitchell was traded by the Cleveland Browns to the Washington Redskins for Ernie Davis, a Heisman Trophy winner. Unfortunately Davis was diagnosed with leukemia and died at age 23, never getting the chance to play a game of professional football. Davis' heartbreaking death motivated Mitchell to take up the cause and find a cure for the disease.

This tournament is the nation's largest annual hall of fame reunion with more than 40

pro football and basketball legends present. Funds are generated by donations made through spectators, raffles and other contests. Mitchell and the fellow hall of fame participants are aiming to cross the \$4 million threshold in funds raised for the charity. Funds from the tournament are donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the Bobby Mitchell Hall of Fame Classic on 15 years of success. It has helped many lives, truly meriting recognition. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Bobby Mitchell and the Hall of Famers' past accomplishments and in wishing them continued success in the many years to come.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LAKOTA SUPERINTENDENT KATHLEEN KLINK

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before you to recognize the retirement of Mrs. Kathleen Klink, Superintendent for the Lakota Local School District, and to express my appreciation for her dedication and commitment to education. For more than forty years, Mrs. Klink contributed her talents to the educational field, and for this, I offer her my utmost congratulations and thanks for her efforts.

After graduating from the University of Heidelberg in Germany, receiving a masters in education from the University of Virginia and a post graduate degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Mrs. Klink began teaching in the Hamilton City Schools. From there, she traveled to Lewiston, Maine, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Wright State University in Dayton, until she arrived in the Lakota School District. Her extensive teaching career, in which she specialized in English, German, and Counseling Psychology, provided her with valuable experience and expertise. In 1981, Mrs. Klink became Assistant Principal at Lakota High School where she served for two years until taking over as Assistant Superintendent. Then, in 1994, Mrs. Klink advanced to Superintendent where she remained until her recent retirement.

Throughout her professional career, Mrs. Klink received substantial recognition for her work including being named as the Ohio Superintendent of the Year, the Sam Walton Business Leader for Southeastern Butler County, and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators Exemplary Education Leader. Furthermore, she attended the Harvard Institute for School Leadership, the Ohio School Leadership Institute, and the Michael Fullan Leadership Seminar through the University of Toronto.

Mrs. Klink's participation in numerous professional organizations, as well as her devoted service to community positions, exemplifies the strength of her leadership. For example, Mrs. Klink served on the West Chester Chamber Alliance Board of Directors, the Fitton Center for the Arts Board of Directors, and the Executive Board for the University of Cincinnati's Center for Economic Education. In addition, she is involved in the Ohio Association of Local School Superintendents, the Phi